

In the Claims

Please amend original claims 1-25 as shown below:

1. (original) A method for cultivating microorganisms of the genus *Thraustochytriales*, wherein the microorganisms are cultivated in a fermentation medium without adding sodium salts and chloride salts, the total salt content being less than 3.5 g/L of total salts.
2. (currently amended) The method according to claim 1, wherein the microorganisms bring forth a production of more than 30 wt% oil per unit of weight of dry biomass, ~~preferably of more than 35 wt% oil per dry biomass~~.
3. (currently amended) The method according to claim 1 or 2, wherein up to 3 g/L CaCO₃, ~~preferably 1 g/L are added to the medium~~.
4. (currently amended) The method according to claim 1 any one of the preceding claims, wherein the microorganisms bring forth a production of more than 10 %, ~~preferably more than 14 %, and very particularly preferably more than 18 % DHA per dry biomass~~.
5. (currently amended) The method according to claim 1 any one of the preceding claims, wherein the microorganisms bring forth a production of more than 5 %, ~~preferably more than 7 %, and very particularly preferably more than 10 % DPA per dry biomass~~.

6. (currently amended) The method according to claim 1 any one of the preceding claims, characterized by the use of a low salt medium, the total salt content of which is in the range < 15 % of the salt content of sea water, ~~preferably < 12 %, particularly preferably < 10 % and very particularly preferably < 8 %.~~

7. (currently amended) The method according to claim 1 any one of the preceding claims, characterized in that the sum of the weight fractions of Na⁺ and Cl⁻ ions in the low salt medium comprises less than 1.75 g/L.

8. (currently amended) The method according to claim 1 any one of the preceding claims, characterized in that the total sodium content of the low salt medium is less than 150 mg/L.

9. (currently amended) The method according to claim 1 any one of the preceding claims, characterized in that the total chloride content of the low salt medium is less than 250 mg/L.

10. (currently amended) The method according to claim 1 any one of the preceding claims, characterized in that the low salt medium comprises glucose, yeast extract, magnesium sulfate, calcium carbonate and potassium phosphate.

11. (currently amended) The method according to claim 1 claims 1 to 9, characterized in that the low salt medium comprises glucose, corn steep liquor, magnesium sulfate, calcium carbonate and potassium phosphate.

12. (currently amended) The method according to claim 10 or 11, characterized in that the low salt medium comprises magnesium sulfate, calcium carbonate and potassium phosphate at less than 3 g/L each, particularly preferably at less than 1 g/L each.

13. (currently amended) The method according to claim 1 any one of the preceding claims, characterized in that the low salt medium has a pH value of between 3 and 10, preferably of between 5 and 7.

14. (currently amended) The method according to claim 1 any one of the preceding claims, characterized in that the cultivation takes place between 10°C and 40°C, preferably between 25°C and 35°C.

15. (currently amended) The method according to claim 1 any one of the preceding claims, characterized in that the cultivation takes place for 1 to 10 days, preferably for 3 to 9 days.

16. (currently amended) The method according to claim 1 any one of the preceding claims, characterized in that the microorganism belongs to the genus *Schizochytrium*, *Thraustochytrium* or *Ulkenia*.

17. (currently amended) The method according to claim 1 any one of the preceding claims, characterized in that the microorganism is *Ulkenia* sp. SAM 2179.

18. (currently amended) The method according to claim 1 any one of the preceding claims, characterized in that the microorganism is *Schizochytrium* sp. SR 21.

19. (currently amended) Oil having a content of at least 10 % DHA, produced using a method according to claim 1 any one of the claims 1 to 18 and subsequent isolation of the oil from the culture broth and/or the biomass available therein.

20. (currently amended) Oil having a content of at least 5 % DHA, produced using a method according to claim 1 any one of the claims 1 to 18 and subsequent isolation of the oil from the culture broth and/or the biomass available therein.

21. (currently amended) DHA of at least 90 % purity, produced using a method according to claim 1 any one of the claims 1 to 18 and subsequent isolation of the DHA from the culture broth and/or the biomass available therein.

22. (currently amended) DPA of at least 90 % purity, produced using a method according to claim 1 any one of the claims 1 to 18 and subsequent isolation of the DPA from the culture broth and/or the biomass available therein.

23. (currently amended) Biomass obtainable by means of a method according to claim 1 any one of the claims 1 to 18 and subsequent separation of the biomass from the culture broth.

24. (currently amended) Animal feed comprising biomass according to claim 23.

25. (currently amended) Foodstuff for human nutrition comprising biomass according to claim 23.